



# INITIATIVE FOR CONSERVATION IN THE ANDEAN AMAZON FY 2014 QUATERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

## FONDO PARA LA ACCION AMBIENTAL Y LA NIÑEZ

### 1. PROJECT COVER SHEET

1.1. NAME OF THE PROJECT: CAQUETÁ: MAINTAINING AND RESTORING  
CONNECTIONS WITHIN ANDEAN AND AMAZONIAN SOCIAL AND NATURAL  
SYSTEMS

1.2. DATES (START/FINISH)  
AGREEMENT/CONTRACT  
7/30/2013 TO 7/29/2017

REPORT PERIOD  
10/1/2013 TO 12/31/2013

1.3. PRIME PARTNER: FONDO ACCIÓN

1.4. NAME OF PROGRAM MANAGER [Click here to enter text.](#)

**1.5. NAME OF USAID AGREEMENT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (AOR) OR  
CONTRACT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (COR):**

**1.6. NAME OF ALTERNATE AOR OR COR:** Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.

**1.7. USAID MECHANISM NUMBER OF AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT:**  
AID 530-A-13-00005

**1.8. OVERALL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This project seeks to restore forest continuity and sustainably manage existing forest remnants by contributing to the consolidation of a bio-cultural corridor in the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont and to the configuration of reduced deforestation belt in the Caquetá municipality of Solano, gateway to the Amazonian lowlands. We propose developing strategies that include generating the enabling conditions that guarantee the project's success by creating greater access to relevant information and developing conservation portfolios and landscape transformation strategies, which in turn will guide the development of participatory sustainable management models and conservation benefit mechanisms for indigenous and small farmer populations. Synergistically, the project will support key policy opportunities at the local, state, and national levels and provide the necessary capacity building for communities and project partners. This goal will be achieved through a detailed design of activities tailored for two selected landscapes (piedmont and lowlands), taking into account the cultural diversity of the two priority areas and ensuring a gender perspective throughout the project. Although the project focuses on maintaining and restoring forest connectivity within two priority areas, it will refine strategies, strengthen partnerships and facilitate policy frameworks for the future implementation of its successful models in the area of highest deforestation separating the two prioritized ecosystems, consequently contributing to restoring continuity between these Andean and Amazonian social and natural systems. The project will focus on two key areas: (1) the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont bio-cultural corridor comprised of the Alto Fragua Indi Wasi National Park (Caquetá state) and the Churumbelos National Park (Cauca State) and their area of influence, where Inga indigenous communities and neighboring small farmers will be prioritized; and (2) the Uitoto and Coreguaje territories and neighboring small farms located in Caquetá's municipality of Solano, a critical transition area to the Amazonian lowlands, an area that is associated with the La Paya National Park and Chiribiquete National Park protected areas. The project focuses on four key components: Enabling conditions, Landscape transformation

through sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, Local policy transformation and Capacity building

## 2. ACHIEVEMENTS OVERVIEW

### 2.1. ICAA INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

#### 2.1.1 IR1 – Selected Landscapes Managed Sustainably

The first three months of FY2014 were crucial in setting up the ground for the ecosystem analysis implementation. The main activities, therefore, were oriented to achieve a better understanding of existent information (relevant to the analysis) in order to have a preliminary indication of the gaps and needs. Such understanding was reached mainly through working sessions with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Avina and the Government of Caquetá, where a rough review of information at municipal, departmental and national level was made. Such review, which was by no means exhaustive, was based on identifying data already produced and data expected to be released by ongoing projects. This process, carried out both in Florencia and Bogotá, allowed Fondo Acción to have a clearer idea of the ecosystem analysis characteristics to be undertaken, and concurrently to narrow down and specify the scope of the term of reference to contract it.

During the period reported, Fondo Acción also explored options to strengthen the scientific basis for Solano's project's intervention. To do so, an important contact was made with the Earth Innovation Institute (EII), leading organization in the implementation of low-emission rural development strategies (LEDS). Through a skype meeting with EII representatives Daniel Nepstad and Tathiana Bezerra, preliminary backing alternatives were outlined. Although options still need to be developed and taken to ground, those identified are related with the running of a Spatial Simulation Model that helps to envisage the outcomes of the LEDS model intended to Solano, and the articulation of Solano's initiative within the efforts of EII to leverage FINAGRO funds to set up and establish low-emission rural development strategies.

During Quarter 1, *Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* further developed the intervention on Fragua – Churumbelos corridor. Through a permanent influx of work and communication with the Amazon Conservation Team Colombia (ACT), a detailed work plan was constructed to design, update and strengthen community based land management plans for indigenous reserves and small farms. Being this activity the backbone of landscape transformation, this achievement offers important savings in regards with technical implementation times; especially considering that ACT will

formally initiated activities until February 2014. The latter means ACT will start executing planned implementing activities from day one.

### **2.1.2 IR2 – Key Elements of Natural Resources Governance Functioning in Critical Landscapes.**

*Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* was particularly successful in achieving results associated to this IR. Despite of the early stage of project implementation, during the quarter reported the project facilitated the involvement of the government of Caquetá in an international discussion platform. *Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* arranged Caquetá's participation in the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GFC) meeting held in Puerto Maldonado (Perú) during the first week of October 2013. "GFC seeks to advance jurisdictional programs for reducing emissions from deforestation and land use, and link these activities with emerging greenhouse compliances regimes and other pay-for-performance opportunities". GFC is constituted by 14 state and provincial governments from developing countries with large experience on the deployment of strategies for reducing emissions from deforestation and land use. Regional Governments from Brazil, México, Peru, Indonesia and Nigeria join forces around the GFC. Caquetá Governmental participation in GFC meeting opened a door for permanent international exchange and learning, bringing also into perspective all efforts conducted in Caquetá to reduce emissions so far. After the international meeting in Peru, Caquetá's government was invited to permanently join GFC, opening therefore a direct channel to knowledge, mechanisms and resources to conserve and sustainably manage tropical forest. In response to this invitation, a formal inclusion letter from the Government of Caquetá was prepared.

During the months of October to December, *Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* also progressed in recognizing the current status of land management planning in Caquetá, particularly in the municipality of Solano. Such comprehension, mainly derived from a field trip with TNC, Government of Caquetá, Avina, ACT and National Natural Parks to Solano, brought to the project a clearer picture about the strategies to support state and municipal governments in following up on agreements reached on issues related with environmental and territorial planning. This understanding is instrumental in synchronizing project's land management plans support to the real needs of the process on the field. Likewise, Fondo Acción initiated the setting of an inter-institutional agreement with Corpoamazonia in order to articulate *Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* work on Land Management Planning with current and related activities led by this environmental authority. This achievement will guarantee relevancy and pertinence of program's activities.

*Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* has also progressed on developing the contact with HED program. Through this work options of collaborations have been identified. So far, the most important common action undertaken is the design and projected

implementation of a national forum about Amazonia issues. This forum is being moved forward by HED, DOI, Fondo Patrimonio Natural and Fondo Acción

### 2.1.3 **IR3 – Increased Capacity to Utilize PES-like and other Economic Incentive Programs**

Although mentioned already in IR2, the participation of the Government of Caquetá in the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GFC) also showed to be instrumental in increasing capacity to utilize PES-like programs. This is so because GFC concentrates part of their work on identifying, studying and adapting pay-for-performance opportunities related to climate change, greenhouse emission and deforestation. Under this circumstance, Caquetá's government is better suited for increasing its knowledge on economic incentive programs. Certainly, a challenge ahead is to effectively take advantage of this situation and materialize the knowledge, exchange and instruments into the department's reality. This activity corresponds to activity CL-IR3-015 as included in Table 4 of the work plan

### 2.1.4 **IR4 – Greater Understanding and Solutions for Key Environmental Issues.**

During this period the main achievements are related with the setting up of the ground to deepen the understanding of key environmental issues in Caquetá and the two prioritized landscapes (Fragua – Churumbelos and Solano Municipality). As shortly mentioned in IR1, the main channel to tackle this need has been the preparation of the ecosystem analysis. To properly set this study, *Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* held working sessions with Avina, TNC, and the Government of Caquetá in order to make further precision of the scope and targets of the analysis. Such process, as shortly described before, has led *Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* to have a better indication of the Ecosystem Analysis Structure to be contracted during Q2 FY2014. In addition, through working sessions with TNC and the Government of Caquetá, a cooperation route has been outlined to strengthen Caquetá's GIS Platform. Such route, besides of underlining the obvious allocation of information from the ecosystem analysis to the GIS platform, defines that *Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* will facilitate the dissemination and proper use of the GIS Platform in the municipalities covered by the project. The challenge involved has been to bring forward an analysis structure that both responds to the needs of the project in terms of its outputs requirements, and to the information needs of the department of Caquetá as a whole.

Q1FY2014 was also successful in bringing forward a preliminary arrangement with The Amazon Conservation Team Colombia (ACT), main subgrantee and implementer of activities in the Fragua – Churumbelos Landscape. Such arrangement, both technical and administrative, sets the ground for the prompt implementation of instrumental

actions related with IR4 as indicated in table 4. The main activities framed within the effort are the design of transformation strategies for the prioritized landscapes (CL-IR4-008), development of market/value chain studies regarding economic activities with potential to decrease pressure on natural resources (CL-IR4-009), and capacity building (CL-IR4-017) and community research (CL-IR4-014), among others. This preliminary arrangement is to be further finalized and formalized through a cooperative agreement during Q2 FY2014.

#### **2.1.5 Support Unit Services**

Only applicable for Support Unit Service

## **2.2 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND USAID KEY ISSUES**

### **2.2.1 Improve Policies and Policy Implementation**

Not apply for the period reported.

### **2.2.2 Increase Gender Awareness and Gender-related Program Outcomes**

Not apply for the period reported.

### **2.2.3 Strengthening of Selected Regional Organizations and Institutions**

Not apply for the period reported

### **2.2.4 Improve Region-wide Capacity for Conservation Through Training**

Not apply for the period reported

### 2.2.5 Increase Indigenous Peoples' Participation

Not apply for the period reported

During this period we worked with the following indigenous groups in the Andean Amazon:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Amahuaca	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cashinahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cacataibo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Culina	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yanesha
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mastanahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Siona
<input type="checkbox"/>	Piro	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cofán
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sharanahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ese' ejja
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asháninka	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amarakaeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yaminahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arazaeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Harakmbut	<input type="checkbox"/>	Huachipaeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Machiguenga	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sapitieri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shipibo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toyoeeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Isconahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pukirieri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shuar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quechua,
			Aymara
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kichwa	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secoya	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shipibo
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Otros

### 2.2.6 Climate Change - Adaptation

Not apply for the period reported

### 2.2.7 Climate Change (Sustainable Landscapes, REDD+)

Not apply for the period reported

## 3. NETWORKING AND SYNERGY

### 3.1. ANDEAN AMAZON LEVEL

Not apply for the period reported

### 3.2. NATIONAL LEVEL

Not apply for the period reported

### 3.3. SUB NATIONAL LEVEL

Not apply for the period reported.

### 3.4. LANDSCAPE LEVEL

Not apply for the period reported.

### 3.5. OTHERS

Not apply for the period reported.

## 4. IMPACT OF LEVERAGED RESOURCES

Not apply for the period reported

## 5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Not apply for the period reported

## 6. SUCCESS STORIES

Not apply for the period reported

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Not apply for the period reported

## 8. SUMMARY

### 8.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

The main achievements reached during the period reported are:

- The design of technical arrangement with The Amazon Conservation Team Colombia, which will speed up implementation once Fondo Accion – ACT cooperative agreement is signed during Q2 FY2014.
- Connected Landscapes in Caquetá successfully designed common work paths with TNC, Avina, Corpoamazonia and the Government of Caquetá. Fondo Acción also established contact and common work strategies with other ICAA implementers. This is the case of Higher Education for Development Program (HED).



- The participation of Caquetá's regional government in the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force meeting held in Puerto Maldonado, Perú in October 2013 was an important achievement that opens the door to strengthen the department of Caquetá.

## 8.2 CHALLENGES AND ADJUSTMENTS

The challenges encountered are related with the setting up of coordinating channels among different actors in Caquetá and within the *Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* program. FA also identified crucial stakeholders with whom common work was particularly important. With this pool of stakeholders, FA initiated a closer interaction mediated in some cases by interinstitutional agreements. In all cases those agreements are in constructing stage, and operational planning is needed. Q1 was also characterized by the deterioration of public order, particularly in the areas nearby AFIW National Natural Park. Although direct implementation will start during Q2, the situation turned on alarms. Through ACT and local community, *Connected Landscapes in Caquetá* is monitoring the progression of the situation.

## 9. ANNEXES

### 9.1 Annex A – List of Acronyms